

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Thursday, February 6, 2025

More Scams

From [Forbes](#): Be careful — it's getting ever more dangerous out there. We're not yet through month one of 2025, and the AI-fueled cyber attacks we were warned would dominate this year are already in full flight. And while there are some macro-level threats — Chinese hackers compromising our networks and Chinese AI compromising our phones, you're still most at risk from your own mistakes as you let your guard down against the influx of everyday threats.



So it is with the wave of "phantom hacker" attacks "currently targeting Apple and Android products," which the FBI has warned is "growing rapidly," and which relies on a spoofed call from a victim's bank tricking them into transferring money to stop it being stolen by a non-existent (phantom) hacker. "And they may even be able to spoof that bank's phone number," the bureau warns, "so the number on your caller ID or cell phone might show that it's the bank."

...The FBI's warning could not be clearer: "Legitimate customer, security, or tech support companies will not initiate unsolicited contact with individuals." There are no exceptions. None.

...It doesn't matter what email address or phone number contacts you. If it's unsolicited, if it's out of the blue, if you have not explicitly reached out first, assume it's a scam. Don't take the call — hang up. It's not your bank, it's not Microsoft or Google or Apple or anyone else. It's a sharp-talking, hardened scammer and the longer you talk to them the more likely it is that you and your money will be parting company.

Full story at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2025/02/02/fbi-warns-iphone-and-android-users-stop-answering-these-calls/>.

Bottom line: If you get an alarming text, email, or phone call, do not use the message in any way. Instead, independently contact the company or agency and ask if there is a problem. For example, there is a phone number on your credit card to contact the issuer. If you get a warning by text, email, or phone call purportedly related to your account, use the phone number on the card. Do not directly respond to the text, email, or phone call.

Note that we recently pointed to an email that was purportedly from UCLA IT - but was in fact a scam. See:

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/01/looks-dangerous.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:



Labels: [email fraud](#), [UCLA](#)

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Wednesday, February 5, 2025

More on Community College DEI Statements

We have been tracking litigation regarding required DEI statements. As blog readers will know, one case against UC was dismissed because the plaintiff never actually applied for a UC position.

There are appear to be two cases arising from California community colleges. One case was dismissed because the rules in question had not yet come into effect in the plaintiff's college district.

The other was dismissed because - although the guidance from the systemwide Chancellor's office was directive concerning what the statements should contain - this guidance was not legally binding on local college districts.

From [EdSource](#): ...[District] Judge Sherriff wrote that many of the professors' concerns arose from documents from the Chancellor's Office, such as guidance, recommendations, model principles and a glossary of terms. He added that none of these recommendations were formally adopted or legally binding, and that what the professors largely objected to was not in their faculty contract. Sherriff also noted that the Chancellor's Office confirmed in court documents that it could not take any action against professors concerning their speech, because decisions regarding employees, such as hiring, performance evaluations and terminations, are the responsibility of the district...

In September, Sherriff dismissed a related suit on behalf of Bakersfield College history professor Daymon Johnson. Sherriff wrote in his order that Johnson lacked standing because the Kern Community College District that employed him had not yet imposed local policies implementing diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility regulations.

In October, Johnson's case was filed in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The State Center Community College professors filed an amicus brief in November in support of Johnson, urging the court to "protect academic freedom across the state by vacating the district court's decision."

Full story at <https://edsources.org/2025/federal-judge-dismisses-case-claiming-community-college-diversity-policies-infringe-on-academic-freedom/726023>.

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Since the Johnson case was appealed, it seems likely that the other will also be appealed. The outcomes of these cases - although they refer to community colleges - could affect UC.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [community colleges](#)

Trailer Bills

Although we tend to think of the state budget as a single bill containing a list of all the expenditures authorized by the legislature, there is in fact a kind of master bill and then a whole series of what are termed "trailer bills" that compose the budget. These bills contained detailed modifications of existing legislation or, in some cases, new creations.



- [California Faculty Association \(NEA\)](#)
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Topics

[UC \(1930\)](#) [politics \(1808\)](#) [UC Regents \(1786\)](#) [health care \(1343\)](#) [State Budget \(1224\)](#) [governor \(1067\)](#) [UC budget crisis \(925\)](#) [UC-Berkeley \(861\)](#) [diversity \(674\)](#) [pension \(647\)](#) [pensions \(589\)](#) [tuition \(520\)](#) [admissions \(505\)](#) [athletics \(477\)](#) [CSU \(390\)](#) [transportation \(374\)](#) [UC-Davis \(366\)](#) [online education \(336\)](#) [ucrp \(295\)](#) [UCOP \(292\)](#) [uc retirement \(291\)](#) [audio \(288\)](#) [new hotel-conference center \(282\)](#) [traffic \(279\)](#) [UC enrollment \(276\)](#) [enrollment \(249\)](#) [UC-San Diego \(238\)](#) [community colleges \(231\)](#) [LAO \(214\)](#) [UC-Irvine \(179\)](#) [fund raising \(161\)](#) [UC-San Francisco \(148\)](#) [UC-Santa Cruz \(148\)](#) [UC-Santa Barbara \(147\)](#) [controller \(138\)](#) [faculty center \(137\)](#) [UC-Riverside \(132\)](#) [ballot propositions \(132\)](#) [CalPERS \(120\)](#) [faculty pay \(106\)](#) [UC-Merced \(105\)](#) [Master Plan \(102\)](#) [Yudof \(89\)](#) [UCRS retirement \(60\)](#) [Faculty Association at UCLA \(59\)](#) [parking \(59\)](#) [privatization \(59\)](#) [CalSTRS \(50\)](#) [UC Berkeley \(33\)](#) [copyright \(30\)](#) [campus climate survey \(28\)](#) [UCRS \(21\)](#) [Michigan Model \(18\)](#) [UC Merced \(17\)](#) [uc funding \(16\)](#) [State Contribution \(14\)](#) [UCOF \(14\)](#) [Regents \(13\)](#) [faculty recruitment \(12\)](#) [UC pay \(7\)](#) [graduate education \(6\)](#) [UC San Diego \(5\)](#) [UCpolitics \(3\)](#) [teaching evaluation \(3\)](#) [UC Irvine \(2\)](#) [UC Santa Cruz \(2\)](#)

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When the governor submits a budget proposal to the legislature - as he did last month - there are similarly proposed trailer bills along with the proposed master bill. At this point, of course, these are bills, not enactments. Only the legislature can enact.

If you look at the list of trailer bills that are part of the January 2025 proposal and that refer to higher ed, you won't find any that refer directly to UC.* However, there is one that relates to community colleges and reflects the interest of the governor (and legislature) in facilitating transfers to UC and CSU. It requires the community colleges to create and maintain a "common cloud data platform" that tracks the academic progress of students, even if they take courses in more than one district, and thus is supposed to facilitate the transfer process.**

Of course, the history of computer system creation by state entities is not a happy one. (Think UCPath!) It is one thing for the governor and legislature to authorize such creation and entirely another thing for it to happen in a timely and on-budget fashion.

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*Proposed trailer bills are listed at <https://trailerbill.dof.ca.gov/trailerBill.html>. Click on "Education" to see all trailer bills for that sector.

**<https://trailerbill.dof.ca.gov/public/trailerBill/pdf/1161>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [community colleges](#), [CSU](#), [governor](#), [legislature](#), [politics](#), [State Budget](#), [UC](#)

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Some Online Retirement Programs in February



The Your UC Retirement System class offers an overview of retirement benefits offered by UC.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN? This class covers UC's primary retirement benefits that provide a foundation for retirement income, and voluntary retirement benefits that offer additional saving opportunities in UC's 403(b), 457(b) and DC plans.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Employees who want to learn about the benefits offered through the primary and voluntary retirement programs and how they work together to help prepare for a financially secure retirement.

Monday, Feb. 10, 9 AM

Tuesday, Feb. 11, noon

Thursday, Feb. 20, 1 PM

Information at https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ijclrx04Q7mPZIMcKN-2Yw#/registration.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [uc retirement](#)

Unclear

From the Wall St. Journal:

...Among the batch of executive actions issued..., one order directs federal agencies to end "equity-related" grants. Another would require universities to certify that they don't run "programs promoting DEI that violate any applicable Federal antidiscrimination laws" when they get grants... For instance, the University of California, San Francisco, received about \$815 million in research funding from the National Institutes of Health for fiscal year 2024, making it

- Is this really the hill UC wants to die on?
- Coming Not-So-Soon to an NIH Grant Near You
- TPM - Part 2 (Senate didn't know)
- More Reasons to Avoid Wilshire If You Come to UCLA...
- Messages
- It may seem off in the horizon, but the future lie...
- 6 Sloan Fellows at UCLA
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- Watch the Regents Meeting of Jan. 23, 2025
- What might have been
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- It would be nice...
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- 2 Items for Consideration by the Senate - Part 2
- Something finally happened - but nothing was resol...
- The 15% Cap - Part 5
- Nimoy
- Watch the Afternoon Meeting of the Regents: Jan. 2...
- Chancellor Suspends 2 Student Groups for Misconduct...
- Stop - for now
- 3% Plus
- Updated Subway Work
- Something Is Rescheduled to Happen - Part 2
- The 15% Cap - Part 4
- Follow the (federal) Money
- Freezing-Unfreezing - Part 3
- The 15% Cap - Part 3
- The 15% Cap - Part 2
- Demolition - Part 3
- Slasher
- Demolition - Part 2
- UCLA Anderson Forecast on Cost of Fires

one of largest recipients in the country. The school keeps about 40% of that for administrative costs...

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/trump-dei-ban-federal-funding-higher-education-8ae81c40>.

Yours truly has yet to see guidance from UC on exactly what the phrase "violate any applicable Federal antidiscrimination laws" entails.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: [health care](#), [UC](#), [UC-San Francisco](#)

Monday, February 3, 2025

Information on Federal Research Funding

From an email received yesterday afternoon:

To: Faculty, Graduate Students, Postdoctoral Scholars and Staff

Dear Colleagues:

As you can imagine, the information that we receive from Washington, D.C. is in constant flux. Today, Sunday, we received two messages that are shared below. One is an excerpt of guidance that was delivered to Health and Human Services (HHS) employees.* The other message, with Q&A, was sent to all National Science Foundation (NSF) principal investigators (PIs).** Both are welcome news.



My office is maintaining two web pages as resources for you: 2025 Administration Transition and Recent News Articles: <https://ora.research.ucla.edu/2025-administration-transition/>; <https://www3.research.ucla.edu/articles/news>. The UC Office of the President (UCOP) also plans to launch a microsite this week with additional information related to federal policy actions.

I can assure you that UCLA and UCOP leaders are following the situation closely and are advocating on your behalf. The federal agencies are likely to issue new guidance in the near future and we will endeavor to keep you updated. We continue to recognize and thank you for your research and creative activities that are critical to UCLA's success.

Sincerely,

Roger M. Wakimoto

Vice Chancellor for Research & Creative Activities

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*Guidance Sent to HHS Employees Regarding the Challenge to Efforts by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government ("the Defendants") to Pause Grants:

"The Court has entered a temporary restraining order prohibiting certain actions by the Defendants in the case, which is effective immediately. All Defendants — including their employees, contractors, and grantees — must immediately comply with the Court's Order.

"Agencies may exercise their own authority to pause awards or obligations, provided agencies do so purely based on their own discretion — not as a result of the OMB Memo or the President's Executive Orders — and provided the pause complies with all notice and procedural requirements in the award, agreement, or other instrument relating to such a pause."

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- The 15% Cap
- Another Lawsuit - and another
- A bit of history
- Lawsuit
- And now a word from yours truly...
- Protecting the House
- Smile
- It's hard to keep up
- Either it's a hack/scam or an abuse of the UCLA em...
- Demolition
- More Scams
- More on Community College DEI Statements
- Trailer Bills
- Some Online Retirement Programs in February
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- Information on Federal Research Funding
- 2 Items for Consideration by the Senate
- No Commercials
- Watch the Jan. 22, 2025 morning meeting of the Reg...
- Take Us Out of the Ball Game, - Part 9 (indirect ...
- Freezing-Unfreezing - Part 2
- What the Regents Likely Missed
- Two Announcements

► January (81)

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- 2023 (828)
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- 2021 (710)
- 2020 (914)
- 2019 (671)
- 2018 (595)
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- 2016 (715)
- 2015 (765)
- 2014 (704)
- 2013 (776)
- 2012 (839)
- 2011 (738)
- 2010 (431)
- 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

****Message to the NSF PI Community:**

On Friday, January 31, 2025, a Federal Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) directing Federal grant-making agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), to "...not pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate... awards and obligations to provide federal financial assistance to the States, and... not impede the States' access to such awards and obligations, except on the basis of the applicable authorizing statutes, regulations, and terms." Although the language of the TRO is directed at State institutions, the Department of Justice has determined that it applies to all NSF award recipients. You can review the TRO.

In order to comply with the TRO, the NSF Award Cash Management Service (ACM\$) system is available for awardees to request payments as of 12:00 p.m. EST, February 2, 2025.

This message is also available on the Executive Order Implementation web page. Please check back regularly as we add frequently asked questions (FAQs) based on community feedback.

Sethuraman Panchanathan

Director, U.S. National Science Foundation

1. When will the Award Cash Management Service (ACM\$) be restored to allow disbursements on active awards?

Access to ACM\$ has been restored and the system is available to accept payment requests as of 12:00 p.m. ET on February 2, 2025.

2. On Friday, January 31, 2025, a Federal Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) directing Federal grant-making agencies, including the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), to "...not pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate... awards and obligations." What is NSF doing to comply with this TRO?

NSF has restored access to the ACM\$ system as of 12:00 p.m. ET on February 2, 2025 and is in compliance with the TRO.

3. I cannot access the ACM\$ system. Why not?

If you cannot immediately access the ACM\$ system, please try again. For technical assistance please contact your respective NSF Division of Financial Management representative. View ACM\$ frequently asked questions.

4. I submitted a payment request last week, before ACM\$ was shut down. Do I need to submit a new request?

Please log into your ACM\$ account to verify whether your payment was accepted before submitting a new request. NSF executed a shut down of ACM\$ last week due to extraordinarily high volumes of payments received after OMB Memorandum M-24-13 was released, which resulted in a cancellation of all payment requests received on January 28. However, payment requests submitted on January 27 prior to 8:00 p.m. have been retained and will be released for payment.

5. Will Fellows (GRFP [Graduate Research Fellowship Program], et al) receive their February stipend?

Fellows must log into ACM\$ and verify their payment request has been accepted. Most Fellows will have to resubmit a request.

6. How long will it take to get my payment?

Due to the anticipated high volume of transaction requests, there could be delays in processing for brief periods of time over the next 24 to 48 hours. If you do not receive your payments promptly, please contact your respective NSF Division of Financial Management representative.

7. How does the TRO impact the award reviews NSF was conducting?

The TRO does not impact the ongoing review of our award portfolio to identify active grants in the context of recent Executive Orders. We will continue the comprehensive review of our award portfolio.

8. Can NSF terminate my award even if they are still reviewing all awards?

NSF can not take action to delay or stop payment for active awards based solely on actual or potential non-compliance with the Executive Orders. However, the TRO reserves the agency's

right to take action for reasons not related to compliance with the executive orders, such as violations of law, regulation, or current NSF grant terms and conditions.

9. Are we still allowed to submit proposals on <https://www.research.gov/research-web/>?

Yes. Proposals may be submitted on <https://www.research.gov/research-web/>.

10. How will the executive orders affect due dates for proposal submission?

Due dates are subject to change. NSF will publish revised funding opportunities as necessary.

11. I submitted a proposal recently. When can I expect it to be reviewed?

NSF will publish revised funding opportunities as necessary and will communicate any updates to the research community via NSF's established communication processes. Our intent is to resume proposal processing and review activities for funding opportunities as soon as possible.

12. I was supposed to be on a panel last week and it was canceled. When will it be rescheduled?

NSF is rescheduling, as appropriate, virtual, hybrid, and in-person proposal review panels that were scheduled through February 7, 2025.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:58 AM No comments:    

Labels: [UCLA](#), [UCOP](#)

2 Items for Consideration by the Senate

There are two related items on the agenda of the UCLA Legislative Assembly (Academic Senate) for Feb. 6. They were initiated by UC-San Francisco. **If passed, the adjuncts and clinical faculty described would become members of the Academic Senate with the rights and privileges so entailed. It is likely they would become emeriti upon retirement, although that is not certain.**



1) *Adjunct Memorial: The UC Academic Senate petitions the University of California Board of Regents to amend Standing Order 105.1.a to add to the Academic Senate each person giving instruction in any curriculum under the control of the Academic Senate whose academic title is ... Assistant Adjunct Professor appointed at more than 50% time; Associate Adjunct Professor appointed at more than 50% time; and Adjunct Professor appointed at more than 50% time.*

2) *Health Sciences Clinical Memorial: The UC Academic Senate petitions the University of California Board of Regents to amend Standing Order 105.1.a to add to the Academic Senate each person giving instruction in any curriculum under the control of the Academic Senate whose academic title is Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor appointed at more than 50% time; Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor appointed at more than 50% time; and Health Sciences Clinical Professor appointed at more than 50% time.*

See section DMS of https://dms.senate.ucla.edu/~councils.and.committees/meeting_view.cfm?V=924C501AB5F6BFA2D5647E97D91DB0E5E28EC8AB85538A894D7E8451F88C30A98EE301C8EB230D9C

You will find arguments pro and con as well as a description of the steps that would be required to bring the two items to the Regents.

Note that there is a very long process that would have to occur before these items got to the Regents.

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These items, if eventually adopted and approved by the Regents, would have a major impact on the composition of the Academic Senate, particularly at campuses with medical schools such as UCLA.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM

No comments:



Labels: [UC Regents](#), [uc retirement](#), [UC-San Francisco](#), [UCLA](#)

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